

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Possible Disposition of the Polish Armed Forces in Wartime	DATE DISTR.	2 April 1953	
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1. The disposition of the Polish Armed Forces indicates that in case of war the Polish Army will be divided into two groups, a northern and a southwestern group..
2. The northern group: This winter in the Bydgoszcz district, exercises testing resistance against cold have been carried out with much official fervor. The troops effected tactical maneuvers under very harsh winter conditions. As a result, the hospitals are crowded with soldiers and there is no room left for civilians. In all units, detachments of snipers on skis have been formed. The Polish units of the northern group are reported to be trained partly for defense of the coast
3. The southwestern group: Tactical maneuvers have been held jointly by Russian, Polish, and Czechoslovak units in the Sudeten area. Nine Polish battalions and eight Czechoslovak battalions participated in these exercises. The Wroclaw (Breslau) and Krakow districts are considered the bases for eventual joint operations in Czechoslovakia and in the neighboring zone of Germany.
4. Ever since the autumn of 1952, the Soviet troops have used mainly maritime transport through Gdansk (Danzig) and Szczecin (Stettin) for moving in and out of Poland and East Germany. Every year, in the late autumn and winter, men who have completed their compulsory military service are sent back to their homes, and other men are sent out. This year this was done differently.
5. There was a large scale exchange of entire Soviet units. Some Soviet units went from Poland either to the USSR or to East Germany, while other units from the USSR or East Germany have replaced them. Moreover, these changes were effected by sea and thus it was difficult to find out where they came from or where they went.

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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